

## Utility Bill Assistance

We understand the challenges of meeting basic needs. Caritas is proud to participate in the FPL ASSIST program which offers assistance with electric bills to eligible individuals and families. We also work with the local water companies and gas company to prevent the loss of these vital services.

## Transportation

Many of our clients depend on public transportation to get around town for medical appointments and basic shopping. Caritas provides BREEZE bus passes to meet these needs



## Get Involved, Make a Difference

### Donate

The generous financial support of First United Methodist Church and members like you allows us to continue providing these essential services to those in need.

### Serve

Join us in our mission to create positive change. Whether you can spare a few hours or commit to regular service, your efforts make a significant impact.

### First UMC Service Days

Mondays 9:00-10:30am (Assistance)  
Mondays 11:00am-12:30pm (Food Pantry)

Become part of the Caritas community by giving your time. Contact our Serve Coordinator to join the First United Methodist Church team.

### Serve Coordinator

Neal Merrifield  
nealcoal1@verizon.net  
202-379-6672

# Caritas

Empowering Lives,  
Building Community



## About Us

Caritas is a collaborative effort of five downtown Sarasota churches dedicated to serving the community and making a positive impact on people's lives. Our member churches include:

- First United Methodist Church
- St. Martha Catholic Church
- First Presbyterian Church
- Church of the Redeemer
- First Baptist Church

Caritas was founded during the summer of 1980 by Rev. Jerome A. Carosella, Pastor of St. Martha Church from 1973-1986. Since its inception, Caritas has been a beacon of hope for Sarasota residents in acute financial need.

Caritas is an outreach ministry that provides assistance with utility payments, food, transportation, prescriptions, and work attire for thousands of Sarasota residents per year.

Dedicated in 2018, the Herring Caritas Center, located at 1645 Fruitville Road, serves as a hub for our services and community outreach initiatives.

## Clothing Assistance

Thanks to our partnership with Angel's Attic, Caritas provides quality clothing to those in need, ensuring that everyone has access to essential garments.



## Food Distribution

Partnering with All Faiths Food Bank, Caritas strives to eliminate hunger by providing nutritious food to those facing food insecurity.



## Work Boot Program

Through our partnership with Pinecraft Shoes, Caritas equips individuals with work boots, empowering them to pursue employment opportunities and financial stability.



## Pharmacy Assistance

In collaboration with Hedges Pharmacy, Caritas facilitates access to prescription and over-the-counter medications, promoting the health and well-being of our community.

